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USAID/OFDA Quarterly Performance Report

Restoring livelihoods and health of conflict-affected communities in South-western District, Central African Republic (IDPs, Returnees, and Host Communities)

Project Dates: Jul 21, 2014 – Jul 20, 2015

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Country/Region:	Central African Republic (CAR) / Lobaye
OFDA Grant Number:	AID-OFDA-G-14-00144
Type of Disaster	Recovery from Civil Conflict
Time Period covered by report :	January 01 – March 31, 2015

Executive Summary

This report captures progress against planned activities, Indicators and Objectives from January 1st to March 31th 2015. The main activities completed within the reporting period were:

- **Objective 1 WASH:** Training of 51 community hygiene promoters in 25 communities for house-to-house campaigns and 18 teachers and 9 school health clubs for hygiene and sanitation promotion in schools. Hygiene and sanitation awareness campaigns were carried out in IDP camps and 25 communities in which latrine digging tool kits were distributed to support household latrine construction. Baseline water quality tests were conducted on water samples from 20 shallow wells and an artesian well. Rehabilitation works on water facilities also started this quarter.
- **Objective 2 FOOD SECURITY:** The training of farming associations on improved agricultural techniques was completed. Agricultural training was focused on gardening techniques to prepare the beneficiaries for vegetable garden development and siting as well as soil conservation techniques.

Contractual delays for WASH infrastructure and difficulties with the procurement of staple crop seed resulted in delays in the implementation of project activities and under spend on the project budget. This will be caught up in April. 3 new hygiene promoters were hired during the current reporting period to facilitate the implementation of WASH project activities.

SECTOR 1: Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH)

Objective 1: *To increase access to safe water and sanitation and improve knowledge of good hygiene practice in the Lobaye prefecture.*

In the current reporting period, 51 hygiene and sanitation promoters from 25 target communities were trained as facilitators to promote improved hygiene practices and household latrine construction through house-to-house sensitisations. The Tearfund WASH team, together with community hygiene and sanitation promoters, embarked on mass campaigns and sensitisation activities in the 25 target communities and IDP camps in Boda, reaching a total of 34,762 people (12000 IDP and 22762 Host communities). The school WASH programme also commenced with the training of 18 teachers from 9 schools (with a total student population of 5,000) who assisted in the formation and training of health clubs in each school (12 student members in each) and the implementation of the school WASH projects. The health clubs are implementing their action plans, and 4 health clubs participated in a competition during World Water Day celebrations in Mbaiki, organised by Tearfund in collaboration with local government and partners

The distribution of latrine digging tools took place during Q2. Through sensitisation and the provision of the tools, 430 household latrines have been constructed in 16 communities during this quarter. Several latrines are currently under construction and should be completed during May and June.

Pump repair tool kits have been acquired for 12 pump mechanics and will be distributed during training in April, to coincide with pump repairs and the installation stage of borehole rehabilitation. Sub-contracting procedures were concluded in Q2 and the rehabilitation of 15 boreholes, protection of 20 shallow wells and construction of 4 Ferro-cement tanks for rooftop rain water harvesting in schools has begun.

Baseline water quality tests were carried out on water samples from 20 traditional shallow wells and an artesian well. In the Mbata area, 9 out of 10 samples had zero faecal coliforms per 100ml of water sampled. The turbidity for these wells was acceptable at 5NTU and the PH at 6.8, which meets Sphere standards. Only one well in Petri village had 10 faecal coliforms per 100ml of water sample. This well will be flushed and disinfected before being protected.

In the Boda area, seven wells had zero faecal coliforms per 100ml of water sample, turbidity of 5NTU and the PH at 6.8; these are acceptable levels for Sphere standards. 4 wells including the artesian well had unacceptable levels of faecal coliforms per 100ml of water. These results have been recorded in the table below:

Table 1: Water Quality Tests for four wells in Boda

Village Name	Turbidity	PH	Coliforms/100ml
Sarakporo	< - 5NTU	7	10
Cotounaf	< - 5NTU	7	10
Kpetene	< - 5NTU	7.2	20
Bruxelle (Artesian well)	< - 5NTU	7.8	20

These wells will be flushed and disinfected during quarter three. All wells will be protected as they are vulnerable to contamination.

As the agency responsible for WASH for IDP camps in Boda, Tearfund continues to play an important role in the WASH Cluster. Tearfund is collaborating with UNICEF and ANEA (a government agency responsible for water and sanitation) on improving the sanitation situation in 5 IDP camps in Boda. For

this reason a hygiene promoter is based in Boda focusing on assisting ANEA in the distribution and appropriate use of essential cleaning materials for IDPs. The hygiene promoter will carry out regular sensitisation programmes with IDPs during May, June and July.

Table 2: Summary of project activities planned and executed during Quarter 2

Activity	Progress / Achievements
Sub-sector 1: Sanitation Infrastructure	
School-based Hygiene and Sanitation	School WASH activities commenced in 9 schools (with 5,000 students). 18 teachers were trained in Mbaiki. Health clubs were formed, trained and developed action plans to implement their hygiene and sanitation programmes. 4 school health clubs participated in World Water Day in Mbaiki, Lobaye Prefecture.
Household latrines construction	430 household latrines were constructed
Sub sector 2. Hygiene Promotion	
Water Safety plans and Water Quality Monitoring	Baseline water quality assessment completed 20 shallow wells and 1 artesian well. Water safety plans for WASH committees will take place in May and June.
Establishment of WASH Committees (25)	This activity is completed with establishment of 28 WASH committees.
Water Point maintenance & repair	On-going, to be intensified with the completion of water facilities rehabilitation
Hygiene Promotion Training (50 promoters in 25 communities)	51 community hygiene promoters in 25 communities were trained to conduct house-to-house hygiene and sanitation campaigns.
Sub Sector 3. Water Supply	
Rehabilitation of Boreholes (15)	Rehabilitation of 15 boreholes began and will be completed in May.
Protection of Shallow Wells (20)	7 wells in Boda have been deepened and are ready to be installed with concrete rings. 13 wells will be rehabilitated/protected in May and June.
Construction of 4 Ferro-cement tanks for rain water harvesting	Construction works on the Ferro-cement tanks for 4 school started and will be completed in June.
Training of Pump Mechanics (18)	18 pump mechanics were identified and training will take place in June.

Table 3: Impact Indicator Progress

Indicators		Baseline	Target	Progress this quarter	Cumulative Progress to date
Sub-Sector 1 : Sanitation Infrastructure¹					
Indicator 1	Number of people directly benefitting from the sanitation infrastructure program	0	40000	13116	13116
Indicator 2	S1: Number of households with no evidence of faeces in the living area	4560	8000	2577	7137
Indicator 3	S2: Number of people who report proper disposal of faeces the last time they defecated	Total Observed: 24000 Total Reported: 39600	40000	12296	51896
		Male Observed: 11670 Male Reported: 10404	16400	6228	25632
		Female Observed: 12240 Female Reported: 20196	20400	6068	26264
Indicator 4	S3: Number of people who report using a latrine the last time they defecated	Total Observed: 24000 Total Reported:	40000	12296	51896

¹ Data from 16 (out of 25) target communities and 10 IDP camps

Indicators		Baseline	Target	Progress this quarter	Cumulative Progress to date
		39600			
		Male Observed: 11670 Male Reported: 10404	16400	6228	25632
		Female Observed: 12240 Female Reported: 20196	20400	6068	26264
Indicator 6	S4: Number of clean HH latrines completed.	3520	8000	430 ²	3950
Indicator 7	S5: Number of people per usable latrine	12	6	11	11
Indicator 8	S6: Number of hand washing facilities in use	200	5000	203	403
Sub-Sector 2 : Hygiene Promotion³					
Indicator 1	Number of people receiving direct hygiene promotion (excluding mass media campaigns and without double-counting)	0	50000	34,762	34,762
Indicator 2	HP1: Number of respondents who know 3 of 5 critical moments to wash hands	Total: 540	27000	914	1454
		Male: 275	13230	414	679
		Female: 265	13770	500	775
Indicator 3	HP2: Number of HH with soap and water (or ash) at a hand-washing location	160	4000	203	363
Indicator 4	HP3: Number of households who store their drinking water safely in clean containers (Safe Water Handling)	No baseline data	7000	2493	2493
Indicator 5	HP4: Number of HH drinking water supplies with 0 faecal coli forms per 100 mL sample	853	7000	0	853
Indicator 6	HP7: Number of village water user committees active at least 3 months after training	0	10	27	27
Indicator 7	HP8: Number of water points that are clean and protected from contamination	0	10	0	0
Sub-Sector 3 : Water Supply Infrastructure					
Indicator 1	Number of people directly benefiting from the water supply program	0	45000	0	0
Indicator 2	WS1: Average litres/person/day collected from all sources for drinking, cooking and hygiene	2,9	15	2.9	2.9
Indicator 3	WS2: Estimated water supplied per beneficiary in litres per person per day	11	15	11	11
Indicator 4	WS3: Number of test results with 0 faecal coli forms per 100 mL sample	16	90	0	16

² Data from 16 (out of 25) target communities; excludes latrines in IDP camps

³ Data from 16 (out of 25) target communities and 10 IDP camps

Indicators		Baseline	Target	Progress this quarter	Cumulative Progress to date
Indicator 5	WS5: Number of HH collecting water for drinking, cooking and hygiene from improved water sources	4240	8000	4240	4240
Indicator 6	WS6: Number of water points which are actively utilising their Water Safety Plan	0	20	0	0

SECTOR 2: Agriculture and Food Security

Objective 2: *Targeted beneficiary households have restored crop production and consumption*

The main activity for this quarter was the training of 166 representatives from 49 farmers associations on improved agricultural practices with the aim of maximising productive benefits from distributed inputs in the previous quarter. The training focused on vegetable gardening and beneficiaries were trained in the production of dry-season vegetables to reduce the likelihood of food-shortage during this season. Not all the farmers who received training have seeds and tools yet and so have not been able to implement new farming techniques. We will expect to see greater impact of the training in the next reporting cycle, once all the trained farmers have received their inputs and have started farming using the new techniques.

In addition to these activities, monitoring visits to beneficiaries who received seeds and tools during the previous quarter were carried out by field staff during this reporting period. Field staff reported positive feedback from those beneficiaries who did plant vegetable gardens and observations were made of vegetables growing successfully. The Impact Indicator table below reports a percentage decrease on the previous quarter as the number of beneficiaries cultivating vegetable gardens was low during Q2. Reasons cited included that this was a new way of farming for many beneficiaries and due to the training taking place in the previous quarter some of the learning from this may have been forgotten.

Table 4: Summary of project activities planned and executed

Activity	Completion
Sub sector 1: Improving Agricultural Production / Food Security	
Training on cross-cutting issues (1,000 HH)	Training on cross-cutting issues was completed for with 250HH's. Training will be completed for the remaining households during June and July
Training of VBC and Rural Farmer association (250) on nutritional diversity and techniques of farming	Completed. 166 farmers' association representatives from 49 associations received training on improved agricultural practices.
Training of 10 VBCs on income optimization	This has not been completed in this quarter but is planned for May and June so that beneficiaries can maximise their incomes during the harvest season.

Table 5: Impact Indicator Progress

Indicators		Baseline	Target	Progress this quarter	Cumulative Progress to date
Sub-Sector 1 : Improving Agricultural Production/Food Security					
Indicator 1	Projected increase in number of months of food self-sufficiency due to distributed seed systems/agricultural inputs for beneficiary households.	0	5	0	0

Indicators		Baseline	Target	Progress this quarter	Cumulative Progress to date
Indicator 2	% of the target population who achieve Acceptable Food Consumption Score (FCS)	53%	80%	0	53%
Indicator 3	Number of people benefiting from seed systems/agricultural input activities, by sex.	0	Total: 10,000	9980	9980
			Male: 4900	5460	5460
			Female: 5100	4520	4520
Indicator 4	Percentage of vegetable seed beneficiary households cultivating vegetable gardens by the end of the project period	0	80%	68%	74%
Indicator 5	Percentage of trained farmers who are applying soil conservation techniques	0	80%	70%	77%

BUDGETARY PROGRESS

Overall spending is behind schedule for this quarter. Spending is behind due to delays in the contractual process for WASH infrastructure which significantly impacted the schedule for WASH implementation and when spending will take place. The majority of the expenditure will now occur in Q3. Food Security has incurred delays in the procurement and distribution of seeds which again has delayed when spending will be reported with the majority scheduled to be reported during Q3. The overall expenditure at the end of Q2 is \$574,163.

CHALLENGES AND CONSTRAINTS

Logistical constraints:

Due to a prolonged contractual and approval process for water infrastructure, the construction of water infrastructure was delayed. Work will be undertaken during the next quarter to ensure that the implementation of WASH infrastructure is on track. Staple crop seed procurement was delayed due to challenges in the seed supply chain in CAR, as well as staffing gaps. Seed distribution should be completed by early May.

Human Resources:

Critical staffing gaps have remained an ongoing challenge for the programme. In March some roles were re-recruited and a new Logistics Manager, Grants and Information Officer and Assistant Finance Manager have now joined the team which will aid the effective delivery of the project. 3 hygiene promoters joined the national field staff in this reporting period to support the hygiene and sanitation component of the project.

Photos



Winners of the competition receive their prizes of notebooks, soap and pens as part of the World Water Day celebration in Mbeiki.

Hand-washing demonstration in Bousako Village, Lobaye Prefecture.



BENEFICIARY CASE STUDY - Agriculture and Food Security

██████████, aged 60, has lived in the village of Belou, Lobaye prefecture for 37 years since 1978, with his wife and 9 children. Prior to the conflict in the Central African Republic, Mr ██████████ was a subsistence farmer; growing crops, rearing small livestock and gathering available foods from the forest such as caterpillars, wild leaves and mushrooms.

When the conflict began Mr ██████████ fled, together with his family, to the village of Loko where they took refuge with a host family. It was the first time in his life in which he was in this situation in which he had to leave behind his home and flee into the bush. Before reaching Loko, the family lived in the wild; eating wild leaves and gathering from the forest. When the family fled, they lost all their clothes, household items and farming tools, and the family livestock consisting of 8 goats and 12 chickens – were all looted.

The family were able to return to the village of Loko in December 2014. When they returned, Tearfund funded by USAID, provided vegetable seeds and basic tools allowing the ██████████ family to restart their previous farming activities. Mr ██████████ received training in farming techniques and was provided with help and support from Food Security promoters.

The support of Tearfund and USAID have allowed the family to produce vegetables from their homestead garden and enabled them to harvest a wider variety of agricultural products; strengthening the family's diet and nutrient intake. The homestead vegetable garden is a new activity for the family, as in the past they only grew vegetables in their fields during the wet season whereas now they have learnt the techniques of the vegetable garden and are able to produce vegetables throughout the year.

The support they received has also allowed them to generate some small income through the selling of their surplus vegetable products; allowing them to purchase households essentials such as salt, sugar and soap. As a result of the support Tearfund provided the ██████████ family on their return to their village after the conflict the life of ██████████ and his family has improved as they have been able to produce their own vegetables and restart their lives in Belou.



The ██████████ family vegetable garden in which they are growing onions that can now be harvested and provide food for the family.